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the most classical period, was in many respects different from the language of Rome's literature. And notwithstanding all the cant that has been uttered about classic models, there really is a particular truth still in the linguistic judgment of the Middle Ages, that while the 'vulgar tongue' follows custom the Latin follows art.

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(To be Concluded)

REVIEWS

Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae. Vol. II, pars II.
By Hermann Dessau. Berlin: Weidmann
(1906).

The present volume emphasizes the fact that the study of Latin inscriptions is entering on a new period, which is to be characterized not so much by the discovery and publication of new inscriptions as by the fuller utilization of the material already accessible. The most notable achievement in Latin epigraphy during the latter half of the nineteenth century was the publication of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*. In that great work, the inscriptions still extant in the original have been examined, as far as possible, by experts; the discussion of the credibility of the earlier copyists, and the criticism of inscriptions preserved only in manuscript have been placed on a sound basis; and the innumerable inscriptions recorded at one time or another since the revival of learning have been brought within the compass of a single publication, provided with the necessary commentaries, arranged according to geographical units and logical sub-headings, and indexed.

Fortunately, the period of preparation of the *Corpus* coincided with a period of unprecedented archaeological activity throughout most of the countries which belonged to the Roman Empire, so that we find ourselves to-day not only better equipped for the study of the inscriptions than our predecessors, but actually in possession of a vastly greater number of the inscriptions themselves.

Epigraphists and historians are now proceeding to classify, compare, tabulate and, when feasible, to reduce to statistical form the inscriptions now at hand. The effect of all this on our conception of the Roman civilization is obvious. The lurid pages of Tacitus, the anecdotes, gossip and scandal of the capital as told by Suetonius and the Augustan Historians, the adulation of the panegyrists and the martyrologies of the Christians are to be supplemented by inscriptions illustrating the public and private life of the Romans, their religious ideas and usages, social institutions and the like, and by tables based on the inscriptions, showing the development of the road-system and the frontier de-

fences, the enrolment of provincials and barbarians in the army at different periods, the distribution of cults, the development of non-classical features in the language, the average age of marriage and average duration of life, the development of the bureaucratic system of administration, the spread of Christianity, and many such matters concerning which the literary sources either leave us in ignorance or present a picture distorted out of all proportion by their own bias and limitations. There are four classes of evidence—the literature, Pagan and Christian; the technical writers, especially the Jurists; the inscriptions; and the monumental remains—with which the future historian of the Roman Empire must be equally familiar, and which he must blend together in his reconstruction of the Roman civilization. It is in the fields of Epigraphy and Archaeology that Gibbon, if he should come to life, would find that the greatest advances have been made since his day.

Dessau's *Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae* marks a distinct step in the direction of putting Latin Inscriptions at the service of the historian. It naturally supersedes the earlier collections of similar scope, as it profits by the advances made in the *Corpus*. Its purpose is to bring together in a few volumes those Latin inscriptions which are most important by reason of their subject matter, together with some which have a purely linguistic importance. The book is intended partly for scholars dealing with Roman history, partly for use as an introduction to the subject for beginners. The text of the inscriptions is printed in ordinary type, like that in the texts of the authors in common use. The brief commentary appended to each inscription, with its discussion of difficult points and its references to the handbooks of history and antiquities, is well adapted to the needs of both classes of readers. Even those who have ready access to the *Corpus* will find Dessau's work extremely useful. The inscriptions are admirably arranged according to classes and sub-divisions, and, within the latter, according to date, so that the book is an organic whole; contiguous inscriptions throw light on one another, and it is possible to read from the beginning to the end of a volume with sustained interest. It is the raw material out of which history is made, arranged as far as possible so as to tell its own story.

When finished, the work is to be in three volumes. Vol. I appeared in 1892, Vol. II, Pars I, in 1902. The present half-volume deals with the records of burial societies and trade guilds; with servants, artisans and professional people; with the various classes of tomb inscriptions; with signatures, labels and the like found on pottery, lamps, weights, roof-tiles and other miscellaneous objects; and with such special categories as the stone cal-

endars, the curious lead tablets with magical imprecations, and the records left by the tourists who in truly modern spirit carved their names on the colossal statue of Memnon near Egyptian Thebes. It thus completes the collection of Latin inscriptions, to which are added over a hundred Greek inscriptions of special interest for Roman history. The third volume is to contain the indices, and probably supplements to the earlier volumes, as a number of interesting inscriptions in the fields which they cover have been found since their publication.

Only a few of the noteworthy things in Vol. II, Pars II, can be mentioned here, but they will perhaps suffice to suggest to those not already familiar with Latin Epigraphy the character and variety of the material, and the extraordinary way in which it brings us close to the men and women in whose honor statues were erected, or in whose memory tombstones were set up, or who themselves left records in stone or bronze of their lives and deeds and thoughts.¹

No. 7212 contains the constitution of a burial corporation of the time of Hadrian. The tombstone 7457 relates in verse how the deceased, starting in life with no possessions, by his own efforts and through his own upright character rose until he was chosen member of the local curia, and ends with an admonition to the reader to imitate his virtues. 7784 contains the letters of Hadrian and Plautina concerning the choice of a new head of the Epicurean school at Athens. The tombstone 8006, erected by a wife to her husband, has a note of tender pathos to it which is extremely touching. The Christian who erected 8257 quotes a verse of Scripture to deter others from disturbing his remains. 8379 tells considerable about life in a French town under the Empire. 8379a apparently mentions the two friends Pliny and Tacitus together. 8522 tells of a three-year-old boy who was done to death by magic arts (cf. Horace Epode V). The Greek inscriptions (8762 ff.) are full of familiar names: Pyrrhus and Philip (the latter expressing his approval of the Roman method of assimilating new citizens), Flamininus, the two Scipiones Africani, and Mummius all appear in 8762-8769. The oath of allegiance to Augustus given in 8781, and Nero's characteristic proclamation of freedom to all the dwellers in Achaea and Peloponnese (8794) must also be mentioned. But the choosing of individual inscriptions in this book for comment is fraught with a "real embarrassment of riches".

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¹ With this review the reader may compare, to his great profit, a review of Bucheler's *Carmina Epigraphica*, by Prof. F. F. Abbott, in *American Journal of Philology*, 19 (1898), 86-90, and a paper by the late Professor Minton Warren, entitled *On the Contributions of the Latin Inscriptions to the Study of the Latin Language and Literature*, *Trans. Amer. Phil. Ass.*, 26 (1895), 16-27.—C. K.

CORRESPONDENCE

In your issue of January 11, 1908, you print some remarks by Professor Sihler which were published in the *Evening Post* of Sept. 7 last. Professor Sihler's remarks are on the subject of the New York Greek Club, of former years, and have interested me very much because in making them he has not only said a good word for Greek studies, but has also indulged in some personalities touching people who were at one time well known to me. But it is not what Professor Sihler has said, but what he has omitted to say, that I desire to refer to through your columns.

Professor Sihler speaks of four members of the New York Greek Club as having "stood out above all the other members". These were Professor Henry Drisler, Dr. Howard Crosby, Mr. Isaac Hall, and Mr. Charlton T. Lewis. All four were among my acquaintances. One was in particular my friend and teacher. Yet I feel that not one of the four "stood out" so prominently as a scholar as did a certain other member of the club, whom Professor Sihler must have known, though he has neglected to mention him. That other member was Charles D'Urban Morris, formerly a fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, and at the time of his death, in 1887, a professor at the Johns Hopkins University.

Professor Morris was one of the most active members of the Greek Club, to which Professor Sihler refers. Often have I heard him speak of its meetings and of the pleasure he derived from attending them. It is perhaps true that, in the earlier days of his residence in this country, when he lived in or near New York, he was a more regular attendant at the Club's meetings than he was after he had gone to live in Baltimore, but I have heard both Professor Drisler and Dr. Crosby speak enthusiastically of Professor Morris's literary taste and of his ability in translating Greek—an ability that he displayed in particular, I presume, at the time when he was able to be present at the regular Friday evening gatherings of the New York Greek Club. Nor can I think that any one of the four members mentioned by Professor Sihler would have omitted Professor Morris from a list of the chief scholars of the club.

It would be easy for me to write at length on the subject of Professor Morris's attainments, his charm of manner, his eloquence, and his personal beauty, but all this would be aside from the point, and I have already intruded too much upon your valuable space. Suffice to say that Professor Sihler, I am sure, would be in hearty accord with all that I have just said, had he been, as I had the good fortune to be, one of Professor Morris's admiring pupils.

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